

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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O. E. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJ: NEWFOUNDLAND SKYLAB TRACKING STATION

FOR SCIATT

1. THERE IS STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT NASA WILL DISCONTINUE NEWFOUNDLAND SKYLAB TRACKING STATION IF LAUNCHES OF SKYLAB WORKSHOP (SL-1) AND FIRST SKYLAB MANNED MISSION (SL-2) PROCEED NORMALLY. THIS DECISION IS BASED ON A HARD LOOK AT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS IN LIGHT OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS. PLANNING DATES FOR THESE LAUNCHES ARE MAY 14 AND 15, 1973.

2. HOST COUNTRY NATIONALS EMPLOYED AT STATION ARE AWARE OF THIS POSSIBILITY. NASA IS ALSO INFORMALLY ADVISING NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, WHICH IS COOPERATING AGENCY WITH NASA UNDER AGREEMENT FOR STATION.

3. NASA STRESSES THAT A DEFINITE DECISION CONCERNING CLOSURE
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OF STATION WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL AFTER SL-2 LAUNCHING. FOR THIS REASON IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO TAKE ANY STEPS AT THIS TIME TO TERMINATE THE STATION AGREEMENT EFFECTED BY DEC 20, 71 AND FEB 23, 72 EXCHANGE OF NOTES. IF NASA SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMS TENTATIVE PLAN TO DISCONTINUE OPERATIONS AFTER SL-2, DEPT PLANS REQUEST EMB TO GIVE GOC NINETY DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS.

4. DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN DISCONTINUANCE OF STATION OPERATIONS AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT TERMINATION, NASA EXPECTS CONTINUE EMPLOY LOCAL CANADIAN STAFF ON MATTERS CONNECTED WITH DISMANTLING AND REMOVAL OF STATION FACILITIES.

5. AT EMB'S DISCRETION IT MAY ADVISE EXSTAFF OF FOREGOING.

"END" ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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